

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 FILE-01 /012 R

66664

DRAFTED BY: S/S- O: DFINNERTY

APPROVED BY: S/S- O: RWRIGHT

----- 074667

O 150636 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 070345

EXDIS

TODEP 27

CINCPAC HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCPAC FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO FROM TEL AVIV 14 APR 73
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2982

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, IS EG

SUBJECT: MIRAGES IN EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 1116

1. WHILE WE CAN NEVER RULE OUT ANYTHING IN THIS PART
OF THE WORLD AND WILL KEEP OUR EYES AND EARS OPEN FOR
INDICATORS, WE WOULD DOUBT THAT GOI PLANNING STRIKE AT
EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS TO KNOCK OUT MIRAGES.

2. WE DO NOT THINK THAT ISRAELIS CARRY OUT MILITARY
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OPERATIONS FOR ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL PURPOSES AND THEREFORE
IDEA THAT THEY WOULD HIT MIRAGES TO SOFTEN SADAT UP FOR
NEGOTIATIONS DOES NOT RING TRUE. THEY WOULD CONSIDER
THIS KIND OF OPERATION, IN OUR VIEW, ONLY IF THEY FELT
THAT PRESENCE OF MIRAGES POSED ACTUAL MILITARY THREAT
TO ISRAEL SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGES
(INCLUDING POSSIBLE LOSSES DUE TO EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSES)
THAT ATTACK WOULD INCUR. WE SEE NO INDICATIONS THAT ISRAELIS
CONSIDER AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION THAT KIND OF A THREAT. (PARA 3
USDAO TEL AVIV 0568 DTG 131455 Z APR 73).

3. WE THINK ISRAELIS WILL WANT TO USE MIRAGE TRANSFER
(IF IT HAS OCCURRED) PRINCIPALLY IN TERMS OF RELATIONS
WITH FRANCE, TO SHOW UP WHAT THEY CONSIDER BIASED FRENCH
POLICY IN DENYING ARMS TO ISRAEL AS " PARTICIPANT"
IN ME FIGHTING WHILE SUPPLYING ARMS TO LIBYA AS " NON-
PARTICIPANT." THEY WILL HOPE TO EMBARRASS FRENCH GOVT, AND
ALSO TO EMBARRASS FRENCH- LIBYAN RELATIONS IF THEY
CAN FORCE FRENCH INTO PUBLIC AVOWAL THAT AIRCRAFT HAVE
IN FACT BEEN TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT.
ZURHELLEN UNQUOTE

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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